AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter presents brief statements of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and much other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 7. NO. 20. WASHINGTON D. C., SATURDAY, AUGUST 11. 1917. WHOLE NO. 332.

NON-UNION FORCES BROKEN BY HATTERS

Danbury, Conn., Aug. 11.—Eight hat companies have withdrawn from the Hat Manufacturers' association and this organization has suffered the hardest blow in its long series of combats with the United Hatters of North America.

The strike started last June when the hatters refused to change their system of setting prices after they had altered their constitution in conformity with an agreement between their representatives and hat manufacturers.

The latest demand was made on these workers almost immediately following the defeat of the hatters against the Loewe company, but the hatters again arranged their battle line and refused the request.

Every attempt was made to induce the strikers to withdraw from the trade union movement and at one of the mass meetings the workers again pledged allegiance to the A. F. of L. The hatters' officials were also attacked.

The unions are hopeful that other manufacturers will withdraw from the hostile organization that once may prevail in this industry.

BOILER MAKERS ACTIVE.

Bellingham, Wash., Aug. 11.—Boiler makers employed at the Bald brothers boiler shop have raised wages 25 cents an hour.

Portland, Ore., Aug. 11.—Striking boiler makers are picketing the Portland boiler works and the Williamette iron works, which are the only plants picketing ordinance. These trade unionists do not intend to waive their rights, and the enforcement of the law's penalty have not alarmed them.

Kansas City, Mo., Aug. 11.—Officers of the Brotherhood of Boiler Makers report to International President Franklin that the Bethlehem Steel company has agreed to meet a committee representing these organized workers. In the past the company has had its own committee which it has supposed to represent the workers.

St. Louis, Mo., Aug. 11.—Boiler Makers' union No. 27 has secured new contracts for its members from employing nearly 40 of its members. The right-hour day and wage increases of 5 cents an hour are granted.

Brunswick, Ga., Aug. 11.—Unorganized boiler makers employed at the Merrill & Stevens shops secured wage increases of 4 and 5 cents an hour as the result of agitation by officers of the Boiler Makers' union. These employes were shown that they were receiving from 10 to 15 cents less than organized plants. The contracts recently signed and called each worker into the office and raised his wages with the increase. He has "would keep it quiet." The unionists are now attempting to organize the plant.

REVIEWS MOONEY CASES.

Springfield, Mass., Aug. 11.—The influential Springfield Republican makes this editorial comment on the Mooney trials at San Francisco:

"The state has not made out a thoroughly convincing case against Mr. Mooney, who was convicted of murder in the first degree, and who, in the opinion of many considered people, and their opinion will be strengthened by the trial of Mrs. Mooney, is the victim of a frame-up. Outside judgment has been cautious owing to the peculiar bitterness between the organized employers and the labor unionists of San Francisco, and there have not been lacking that an effort was made to manufacture a case against Mr. Mooney and his wife. The doubt as to their guilt has been a growing one and, while the crime of the bomb throwing was indeed atrocious because of the mangling and murder of a many innocent people, the right persons to punish should unmistakably be found."

BONUS SHAM EXPOSED.

Topeka, Kan., Aug. 11.—The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad does not include its organized employes in its bonus system and W. T. Lee, writing in the Topeka Daily Capital, says:

"The selection of trade unionists from participation in bonus payments by railroad corporations is the finest compliment that could be paid to the organized workers, and places them in the most favorable position for negotiating the next wage increase. The payment of bonuses belies the plea of poverty made set up by the railroads every time a new agreement comes up for consideration. They are placed in the ridiculous position of admitting prosperity to one class of employes and pleading poverty to another."

CANNERS' WAGES INCREASED

San Jose, Cal., Aug. 11.—The Santa Clara valley cannery strike is ended by the employers raising wages from 25 to 30 cents an hour.

"MASTER AND SERVANT" THEORY KNOCKED OUT

Indianapolis, Aug. 11.—The public service commission of this state has ruled that it opposes the idea that the "governor's service agreements" that prevail on Indiana non-union city and interurban street railroad lines.

It is stated that former Governor Ralston, after the street car strike in this city, united as a party to these agreements, which provide that the public service commission shall arbitrate differences between a street car company and employes. This feature was intended to head off the public against protests of workers who were compelled to sign the agreement which defeated the street car strike claims and made it possible to operate the six-light non-union cars.

The commission has refused to accept this agreement. It shows that the law creating it never intended that it should take charge of labor disputes. In defense of this position the commission refers to other laws which have established machinery "for production, conciliation and arbitration of controversies between employer and employe."

UNIONISTS VICTIMIZED

Tacoma, Wash., Aug. 11.—Organized longshoremen protest against the victimization policy of the Employers' association. The unionists point to a secret pouch code used by the employers. An applicant for work is given a card about the size of a meal ticket. This is a working permit. Various punch marks are used to carry secret information, letting the employer just what the union affiliations of the worker are. It is claimed that one of this scheme is to find the local labor market.

METAL MINES CONTROL URGED BY MISS RANKIN

Washington, Aug. 11.—Federal control of metalliferous mines and an expose of the blacklisting system in Butte copper mines were features at the first set speech by Miss Jeanette Rankin, Montana congressmen-elect.

"The lady from Montana," as she is referred to in the national house of representatives, called attention to the fact that laws empower the president to commandeer any mine, except copper necessary to the production of the war, and that there are laws in force that are equally effective in adjusting differences between employers and employes in this industry, which is marked by increased production and lawlessness in Butte and Arizona.

Miss Rankin gave the insight into conditions in the Montana copper industry:

"For some years the Anaconda Copper Mining company has been using what is called in Butte the rustling card system. This system is practically a blacklist.

"This system has effectively discouraged men from organizing. It has prevented them from obtaining the redress of their grievances in safety devices in the mines. It has caused them to hesitate to discuss their grievances with their bosses. The conditions of the mines have grown more and more unsafe. I have had a heartrending letter from the wife of some of the miners saying that when their husbands went to work in the morning they never knew whether they would ever return, and that they lived in constant terror of it.

"On June 7, 169 men were burned to death in a fire in one mine. This fire could have been stopped easily if the men had been organized. These trade unionists do not intend to waive their rights, and the enforcement of the law's penalty have not alarmed them.

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LABOR LAW IS UPHELD BY PENN. GOVERNOR

Harrisburg, Pa., Aug. 11.—Governor Brumbaugh has vetoed the "full crew supreme." and has made of 391, which provides for full crews on freight trains, remains in full operation.

The supreme court decided to set aside the law so long as the war would last and for one month thereafter. The governor adopted this policy when they realized a complete nullification of the act could not be secured. Two years ago the legislature induced the legislature to repeal the law, but Governor Brumbaugh vetoed the repealer.

In declining to suspend the act, the state executive expressed the opinion that to disturb any labor condition in war times might lead to grave consequences, and Brotherhood officials cited as disapproving repeal of labor legislation.

Personal observation, the governor says, has convinced him that the engine man at present train is necessary, particularly since many trains have been abolished and those remaining are much heavier.

"I think," said the governor, "it would be most unfortunate for any of the states to repeal labor laws with which safeguards have been thrown about labor, if the need for such necessity for such action, and that it would lead to a slackening of the energies of the workers, rather than to an increase of it, besides being very unfair to the laboring people themselves."

New York, Aug. 11.—Railroads lost their fight to suspend the Pennsylvania full crew law when Governor Brumbaugh vetoed the bill. The Vice President Wilson's position in favoring passenger and other crews on the York Times, running true to past performances, is angry at the governor's veto plans and other corporation papers.

The Times denounces "false pleadings," and then proceeds to put its judgment in opposition to railroad men.

It is not possible that upon the correct understanding of the facts the president could regard the full crew law as a hindrance in any economic or humane sense. It is contrary to public interest at a time when thrift is necessary to win the war."

15,000 ANARCHISTS.

San Francisco, Aug. 11.—A petition signed by 15,000 voters, demanding the recall of District Attorney Fickert, has been filed because of perjury methods employed by that official in connection with the prosecution of Tom Mooney. When asked to express an opinion regarding this recall movement, the district attorney said: "The people behind this fight against me are anarchists. I'll tell you right now, I'm wanting me out of office is that they fear prosecution. There were some things done in connection with preparedness day bomb explosion and it is the anarchistic element which fears me.

Editor Scharrenberg of the Coast Seamen's journal, declares that Fickert resign his job because "the days when he could scare people have passed."

The unionist charges Fickert with being in the employ of and employing corporations that have time after time debauched this city.

"And continue to debauch," Scharrenberg, "that he has been driven in a corner he yells like a pup."

MAY DISCHARGE UNIONISTS.

Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, Aug. 11.—The high court has ruled that an employer may discharge a man because he is a member of a trade union. The court does not use these words, but it upholds an employer who discharged a worker because he refused to sign a statement that he was satisfied with working conditions. As the commonwealth arbitration act makes it unlawful to victimize unionists, the worker appealed to the court for justice. The employer insisted that unionism had nothing to do with the case, and that the worker was discharged for the sole reason that he would not sign the statement. The employer was dismissed, although two of the judges of the high court thought he was merely a trick to evade the law's clear intent.

"WARNING" BY ERIE R. R.

New York, Aug. 11.—Because H. B. Perham, president of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers, will assist Eric employes in organizing, the Erie telegraph officers of this corporation have issued a "warning" to the effect that Perham is "trying to stir up trouble." The company declares it is prepared to "protect its employes" in doing something unreasonable or unwarranted." The telegrapher said that unionism had nothing to do with the case, and that the worker was discharged for the sole reason that he would not sign the statement. The employer was dismissed, although two of the judges of the high court thought he was merely a trick to evade the law's clear intent.

STEREOTYPERS GAIN.

Omaha, Neb., Aug. 11.—In the official journal of the International Stereotypers and Electrotypers' union, President Freel reports that gains have been made in Toronto, Ontario; Kansas City, Mo.; Kansas City, Mo.; Cleveland, Ohio; Baltimore, Md.; Lowell, Mass. (including Lawrence and Haverhill, Mass. and Manchester, N. H.); Salt Lake City, Utah. These gains include wage increases for journeymen and apprentices.

WHEAT IS ROTTING

St. Charles, Mo., Aug. 11.—Because the Missouri, Kansas and Texas railroad is attempting to destroy the Order of Railroad Telegraphers, great wheat in this vicinity is lying out in fields in sacks exposed to the heavy rains. Farmers are having difficulty in moving their grain because of the refusing operation of the railroad's freight service.

MINERS RAISE WAGES.

Leadville, Col., Aug. 11.—Metal miners in this district have raised wages 50 cents a day after a short strike. Operators howled loud and long about the injustice of the action, but they finally agreed to compromise with their employes, who demanded $4 a day. The minimum rate is now $4 a day.

PENSION LAW UPHELD

Bismarck, N. D., Aug. 11.—The state supreme court has upheld the teachers' pension act and upon Saturday the new wage agreement of Painters' union No. 48.

"BLIND" EMPLOYERS BLAMED FOR STRIKE

Seattle, Aug. 11.—The Evening Star hits straight from the shoulder in placing the blame for the eight-hour strike of timber workers in Washington and Oregon. This newspaper courageously says: "It is a commonly accepted situation, a crime against our country. And why?

"Because, even to this day and age, when the whole world is offering its life for the rights of a more democracy secure, there are small-souled men, controlled by the greed of gold and the desire of the slave master, who autocratically deny the fundamental right of an eight-hour day and the right of workers to be organized.

"The eight-hour day now undoubtedly hangs in the balance, but if it is favor and should be adopted as a basis for wages.

"We defend the commander-in-chief of our army and navy, our leader in this, the hope of our great national crisis, President Woodrow Wilson.

"Let the 'lumber' barons charge President Woodrow Wilson, being a W.

"If it is these smug gentlemen, and the 'kept' newspapers who are attempting to confuse the issue of the eight-hour day, and the right of men to organize, took a tumble to themselves.

"They are not keeping up with the march of affairs, which, during this year, has seen the world tumbling rapidly of a turbulent river.

"Everywhere in the world, of late, a broader conception of humanity has been developing.

"But here, in the northwest, in this 'land of the free and the home of the brave,' exploiters of labor combine to make a mockery of democracy. They still scoring things through the same smoked glasses as of yore, they point to a people who, through their representatives, have given their lives and treasure in the cause of democracy.

"Patriotism!

"Unemployment now, with the country at war, is disgraceful, says an editorial in the current issue of Collier's Weekly, "and but employment comes close to treason."

RULES FOR EXEMPTION.

Washington, Aug. 11.—"The interest of individuals or associations of industry in one must be considered as such," says Provost Marshal General Crowder in the 2d part of a series of statements concerning the execution of the army draft law.

"A balance must be struck and maintained, so far as possible, the military and the industrial needs of the nation, and the necessary sacrifice must be distributed with scientific accuracy and in such a way as to accomplish both purposes of the nation."

The provost marshal general says "the necessity of the military operations is the dominant object, to which the conservation of certain industrial interests is a means to the end.

"Men are needed in an industrial case, is, then, always (world):

"(1) Is the industry in question essential to the carrying on of the military establishment or the effective operation of the military forces with the maintenance of a national interest during the emergency?

"(2). Does the person by or in respect of whom the discharge is sought contribute substantially to the support of such a necessary industry, that his withdrawal would be fairly to another without direct, substantial, material loss and detriment to the military establishment or the operation of the particular enterprise?

It is stated that "the principal grounds for exemption or discharge in the local boards is that of dependency."

MACHINISTS ENJOINED

Kalamazoo, Mich., Aug. 11.—Circuit Judge Wickham issued a permanent injunction against Machinists' union No. 42.

"In use the language of the court the strikers are enjoined "from peacably or otherwise interfering with the plant of the Chicago Fan company." The court declares that the defendants "have no lawful right" to picket the plaintiff's premises "even though they do not force or violence," and they are ordered "to desist in any way" with the company's business, or visit the homes of the strikebreakers for the purpose of inducing them to cease their employment.

Mixed up with this order is the usual jumble about "violence," which is "defined to include, for the purpose of the injunction and which between the lect that violence is punishable under the criminal laws of the state." The accused is accorded a trial by jury.

CAR MEN RAISE WAGES.

Cincinnati, Aug. 11.—Members of the Brotherhood of Railroad Car Men are jubilant over their successful ending of a wage controversy with the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton railroad. Increases average 3 1-3 cents an hour.

Denver, Aug. 11.—The Colorado and Southern railroad has conceded 208 striking car men that it will recognize and continue to draw up a working agreement and these employes have returned to work. The railroads to pay increases to many wage rate paid in other shops working under the same conditions and in the same locality.

OXMAN TO BE PROBED

San Francisco, Aug. 11.—Mayor Rolph has ordered the police department to thoroughly investigate the Oxman perjury expose and the circumstances under which District Attorney Fickert "dug up" this witness, who is charged with false testimony in the prosecution of Tom Mooney and Mrs. Mooney.

Police commissioner Cahill charges of testimony by other state witnesses will also be probed.

EARNINGS HAVE TRIPPLED.

New York, Aug. 11.—The report of the American steel foundries for the six months ended June 30 shows a net profit of $2,000,000, compared with $1,674,236 last year.

As trade unionism would materially affect these profits, the steel corporation believes in "free and independent workmen."

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Washington, Aug. 11.—Preliminary reports from one-third of the railroads show that the roads have increased in net revenues for the month of June and nearly 8 per cent over the same month last year, the gross show an increase of 10, rising from $93 in June, 1916, to $96 in June, 1917.

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OPPRESSORS ESCAPE; CENSURE FOR VICTIMS

Adelaide, South Australia, Aug. 11.—Persons who are blind to social wrong have no right to censure labor when it resorts to crime, says the Daily Herald.

"It has become quite the fashion of late in certain quarters," says this paper, "to lecture severely the workers on their iniquitous ways in the general community. These verbal castigations, no doubt, are all very well in their way, but it is time a little eloquence was expended for the benefit of some more guilty classes, who, employing class, and also the much discussed general community, might receive a lesson in the results of their actions. The families which are being buried in labor graves have to pay somewhere when they are repeated with such frequency as has been the case recently. The cost of a new life insurance and a remonstrance now and again if it happens to kick over the traces may have a salutary effect. But labor's beginning to wonder why it should bear all the brunt of wrongful conduct, nation and public continently when there are others whose conduct is not above reproach on all of the score. Whenever the workers are forced, under the crushing weight of their effort fails, to requisition the weapon of strike, they are characterized as disturbers of the peace, and as a menace to the well-being of society. Very little is said about the suffering of the workers of insufficient wages and oppressive conditions of labor. This is the real cause of the trouble, if it be moved, and upon society itself rests the responsibility for ending it. Therefore society, or the general community, before it and its interested champions, condemns the workers, should first of all see that it itself is above reproach. If the workers are given a share in society's keeping the wheels of industry revolving, society owes the workers a share in the profits in being that they are not oppressed."

DESTROY LAND MONOPOLY.

Washington, Aug. 11.—At a conference on the high cost of living C. B. Kegley, master of the Washington state grange, said that "we can trace the to the fact that heavy taxation of land values is the only way to break the monopoly of land and to reduce the high cost of production for farmers, and that speculators in farm lands is one of the greatest evils of real farmers.

Professor C. Lembucher, president of the Lower Rents society, urged a federal tax of 1 per cent on the value of all land and 1 per cent on the value of all unimproved land. Another remedy advocated was federal acquisition and operation of the natural resources—oil, iron and other ores, timber, coal and water power—the owners of title thereto to be given only a fair government investment, but nothing for good will and the rights of the people and the products to be sold at cost, at least during the war.

The speaker stated that "despite the shortage of crops, nearly half of the arable farm land of the country is held idle, and is held for speculation for speculative purposes."

Co-operation was also favored as a means to combat high living costs. Speakers quoted figures on this movement in European countries.

WOULD CONSCRIPT WEALTH.

Fargo, N. D., Aug. 11.—In two speeches in this city Carl S. Vrooman, assistant secretary of agriculture, declared for conscription of wealth as well as of men to finance the war.

"We must have conscription of wealth just like our conscription of men. It is time to take from the paper that some of our millionaires are objecting to an 8 per cent war tax. It is time to take, when millionaires of England are paying 40 per cent tax.

"I believe any wealthy man who isn't willing to pay 8 per cent or 80 per cent or even 40 per cent in income above what is necessary for his own support, to help us win this contest, doesn't deserve to have the protection of that flag which the boys in khaki are fighting, across the water, to preserve."

PROFIT IN WIRE TALK.

Washington, Aug. 11.—Telephone companies showed a profit of nearly $17,000,000 in the month of March, according to a compilation made by the interstate commerce commission.

There were in service 7,495,476 telephones, which represents an approximately 12 per cent over March, 1916. Operating revenues totaled $18,000,000, showing a increase of more than 10 per cent within the year. Net revenues rose from $14,556,172 to $17,445,448, leaving net operating revenue for March, 1917 at $17,000,000, after taxes and expenses reduced this figure to $4,710,952, operating income for the month.

DEFINES "LIVING" WAGE.

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, Aug. 11.—Under the pre-war and present conditions, cannot be expected to work for less than 40 cents an hour during the short season." says the Voice.

"No man hardly live decently than $2 a day, and no man can do a day's supporting a family. To ask him to do it, and then to add to the load to ask what is practically an impossibility.

"Bread and meat are twice as dear as they used to be and flesh and blood cannot be bought as cheaply as ever in the wage market."

STREET CAR MEN GAIN.

Pueblo, Col., Aug. 11.—Members of Street Car Men's union No. 602 are jubilant over the increase of 5 cents an hour since the first of the month. An increase of 4 cents was secured last April. The new scale now in force is now 31 cents. Wages for barn men, formerly paid 27 cents an hour, now workers are increased 35 per month with one Sunday off with pay.

8 HOURS FOR MACHINISTS.

St. Paul, Minn., Aug. 11.—Machinists employed by the locomotive department of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha railroad have secured the eight-hour day and raised wages 7½ cents an hour, making the rate of pay in the shops, which formerly in the car department secure the nine-hour day and similar wage increases.

120-PAGE LABOR PAPER

Denver, Aug. 11.—The largest issue of a labor paper ever published in America is the world in the issue of the Denver Labor Bulletin in its issue which consists of 24 sections of eight pages each, 192 pages in all. The issue was printed in two editions, one in English and the other in Spanish.

WANT "MORE COOKS"; IGNORE LONG HOURS

San Francisco, Aug. 11.—The Labor Clarion prints an open letter to Allan Pollock, president of the Pacific coast retaining service, who deplores the scarcity of cooks and says that "we must develop a race of cooks." Mr. Pollock is answered by the statement that practically every trade but the cooking has been given the eight-hour day behind. Even the common laborer, the least to gain recognition in the upward trend of labor, has all but emerged from that period of industrial benighted.

In spite of all this the 12, 13 and 14-hour day, seven days a week, still exists in the hotel and restaurant business with its consequent physical breakdown in early middle age and the stupendous toll to the great white plague, fostered of trying to draw recruits from other occupations by ameliorating these conditions, the attitude of the hotel and restaurant men has always been to retain the condition of yesterday.

It is stated that the California hotel keepers' organization employed high-priced corporation attorneys to have the women's eight-hour law declared unconstitutional and that the Restaurant Men's association of San Francisco chamber of commerce to the extent of the widely advertised million dollar "boycott" fund, the aim of the "law and order" (?) committee to keep local cooks and waiters from becoming a million dollar trust within 12, and on the theory that the unions have been the means of forcing management to re-establish the 12-hour day, and the conditions of 16 years ago.

"When we hear of cooks for whom Mr. Pollock laments so fervently, realize that the cook has something in life to offer a man or woman, that the cook is a man, and all too brief sleeping period of the cook, that the overstrain, and will sit down with the men and women of the trade, collectively and individually, and work out a division of the rewards of the business, as a guarantee of the future, there will be no difficulty in understanding the present abnormal labor conditions, in securing cooks for the future."

NO LABOR SHORTAGE

Washington, Aug. 11.—In response to a query regarding labor conditions in southern California, Organizer Dale writes that Secretary Morrison, secretary A. F. of L., as follows:

"Will say that the best information that I can obtain and my own observations are that there are sufficient workers in southern California to harvest, market and transport the crops if wages, hours and living conditions are comparable with those of other states. I mean by this, drinking water in the camps, good water, sanitary and decent sleeping, reasonable hours and a living wage will make the trick.

"This bowl about the shortage of labor is being promulgated for a purpose, namely, to create prejudice against the labor unions and against certain laws that have been passed in the interest of labor, but like the man who dyes his mustache, they fool no one but themselves, and, with the fashion, with their hands hidden in the sand, think their motives are hidden."

LAW CAN BREAK STRIKES.

Indianapolis, Aug. 11.—"The most ingeniously contrived and far-reaching piece of strikebreaking machinery ever devised has been put into use in West Virginia," says Morrison, Mason and Plasterer organizer for the Chesapeake and West Virginia law which requires every able-bodied male in that state to do at least 36 hours' work a week or go to jail.

"Under the guise of attacking the idlers," says Editor Dobson, the West Virginia legislature conclusively or through a joker created the most effective weapon for the breaking of strikes. The sinister aspect of the law is to be seen in the fact that no penalty is provided for the man who withholds work from others eager for the opportunity to earn. Lockouts are legal while strikes are criminal. West Virginia has much to explain."

FAVORS CONCILIATION.

Salem, Ore., Aug. 11.—Governor Withycombe urges the creation of a board of seven members to conciliate and arbitrate industrial labor disputes. He suggests that three members be chosen from organized labor, three from organized capital and a seventh member to be the chief justice of the state supreme court.

Governor Withycombe expresses this opinion on industrial conditions: "It is not the fault of the I. W. W. their propaganda and their agitation are too vicious and too contemptible to gain a permanent foothold. But I believe that this country is on the verge of grave industrial difficulties."

LABOR NOT SCARCE HERE.

Albany, N. Y., Aug. 11.—The state industrial commissioner reports that there is no labor shortage in this state, which has been so much discussed, in more apparent than real. One good city has been out of the general situation, the report says, is that "it will no longer be possible to draw a dead line in so many industries against men of 45 and over."

WANT NON-UNION SHOP

Wichita, Kan., Aug. 11.—Building contractors refuse to recognize the unions of their striking employes and have appointed a committee to call "the open shop." The fact that wages are 31 and 32 less in Wichita than in Kansas City, Mo., and St. Louis, is why the employers talk about the "right to run their own business."

CEMENT WORKERS GAIN.

Hartshorne, Okla., Aug. 11.—Organized cement workers have secured an investigating commission, the United Cement Company which includes the union shop, check-off system, reinstatement of all strike leaders and a 10 cent wage increase.

DUNGEONS WALLED UP.

Trenton, N. J., Aug. 11.—In compliance with reforms at the New Jersey state prison suggested by an investigating commission, the underground dungeons at this institution are being walled up. It is stated officially charged that these dungeons were used to punish prisoners.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, Aug. 11.—The Typographical union has increased wages from 42 a week to 47 for journeymen, based on nonunion prices. The workers compensated their original demand of $5 a week for a 44 hour week, the scale taken from the first of last year.

EMPLOYERS CRY 'WOLF' WHEN WORKERS STRIKE

Cheyenne, Wyo., Aug. 11.—"It is becoming alarmingly popular in certain quarters to cry 'wolf' when the industrial workers and 'German intervention' whenever any body of organized workers dare to search of betterment," says the Wyoming Weekly Labor Journal.

"The workers of America are loyal to their nation—the United States of America. But the patriotism is far less to be questioned than is that of some of the hordes who are so ready to use the cloak of an alien flag for whenever labor seeks its rights.

"We have no use for the I. W. W. It is a menace to the workers themselves and as such is to be condemned and discouraged. Neither have we any use for the person or persons who too readily accuse union men of being germinated with this doctrine because they happen to be dissatisfied with their conditions. It is underhanded, contrary to all patriotism is the refuge of scoundrels and is a menace to the welfare of every and to our patriotism and to our nation. It is taking away the bacon. There is no present reason, nor can we see a time in the future when there will be any reason might exist, why labor should sacrifice its rights and its conditions. Nobody argues for such a condition except those who would profit by the change."

MAINTAIN STANDARDS.

Springfield, Ill., Aug. 11.—In urging miners to maintain a maximum production, Frank Farrington of the president Farrington of the Illinois district, United Mine Workers, says:

"We do not contend that your operate, it is not intended that you should sliver your organization established standard of employment to be destroyed. The contrary is true. Your power of your organization will be used to safeguard every right you now have. Established standards shall not be disturbed to your disadvantage and no wage reductions shall be made. Instead advantage will be taken of every legitimate opportunity to improve standard and to increase wages, but this must be done at the appointed time in the regular way and through the instrumentality of our union. However, it is intended that it shall be made clear to you that the practice of shutting down mines in violation of your agreement and of some decided condition, and of suspending work under every conceivable pretext is to be discouraged. It is also intended to point out to you that restriction of output, and capital production, must be removed and that you must respect the laws of your union and the rules at work as you are required to do by the provisions of our joint agreement."

LEHIGH VALLEY R. R. SUED.

Trenton, N. J., Aug. 11.—The Lehigh Valley railroad has been sued for heavy damages by a plate glass firm because of property destroyed by the "Black Tom" explosion of war munitions in Jersey City, one year ago.

The plaintiff contends that great quantities of high explosives were placed on the pier and that no precautions were taken toward guarding them; that proper care was not taken to prevent fire and that an alarm of fire was not turned in promptly to the Jersey City fire department; that fire was first discovered; that the railroad company neglected to have operative fire fighting devices on the scene, and that through its maintenance of a business in blind storing of high explosives it endangered property on which the plaintiff carried insurance.

MAY SHUN NON-UNIONISTS.

Hartford, Conn., Aug. 11.—The state supreme court has upheld the supreme court of Hartford county which ruled that organized labor in Hartford and this city have the right to refuse to work with employes of the nonunion Cobb & Mitchell electric company.

Every Citizen's Alliance element in the state supported the decision, though this was in direct violation of their sacred dictum that workers have no right to quit work with any people and for whom they please.

The unionists' victory is especially sweeping because this action of Judge George Pope, president of the national association of manufacturers.

STEEL EARNINGS LARGE.

New York, Aug. 11.—Profits of the United States steel corporation continue to soar, according to its report for April, May and June.

During this period profits totaled $164,000,000, compared with $146,000,000 net earnings of the previous three months, which were the largest in the history of the company until that time.

EIGHT HOURS INEVITABLE.

Thomas, Wash., Aug. 11.—The F. F. Harmon & company, furniture manufacturers, have placed their 200 employes on the eight-hour basis with no reduction in pay, it is stated.

"There were no demands made upon us," said the manager, "but we consider that the eight-hour day is inevitable."

CO-OPS PAY DIVIDEND.

Virden, Ill., Aug. 11.—The Co-operative society at this place paid a dividend of 15 per cent to its members, amounting to $2,000 for the year ending the last quarter. Total sales to members during this period aggregated $7,662.71 and to non-members, $1,811.74. Total resources are $7,756.01.

MACHINISTS LOCKED OUT.

Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 11.—Because they asked for a wage increase, machinists employed by the Ohio Elevator company locked out the men. Information the management suggested that the machinists work 9 hours a day instead of nine, but the offer was declined.

MAY SEIZE COAL MINES.

Chicago, Aug. 11.—The Illinois state council of defense has issued a call for a conference of the governors of the states for the purpose of taking concerted action to reduce coal prices, owing to the action of mines and mines